

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An optical storage medium, comprising:
  - 2 a disk-like body; and
  - at least one optically detectable mark on the disk-like body, the at least
  - 4 one optically detectable mark being readable by a plurality of different optical
  - systems configured for different types of optical storage media.
2. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one optically
- 2 detectable mark is located on a buried layer of the optical storage medium.
3. The optical storage medium of claim 2, wherein the buried layer is a non-data
- 2 layer of the optical storage medium.
4. The optical storage medium of claim 2, wherein the buried layer is a data layer of
- 2 the optical storage medium.
5. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one optically
- 2 detectable mark is located on a surface of the optical storage medium.
6. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one optically
- 2 detectable mark is located within a non-user-data area of the optical storage
- medium.

7. The optical storage medium of claim 6, wherein the non-user-data area comprises  
2 a lead-in area of the optical storage medium.
8. The optical storage medium of claim 6, wherein the non-user-data area comprises  
2 a lead-out area of the optical storage medium.
9. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one optically  
2 detectable mark is uniform in width along an axis coinciding with a radius of the  
optical storage medium.
10. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one optically  
2 detectable mark is shaped approximately like a sector of an annulus.
11. The optical storage medium of claim 1, wherein the at least one optically  
2 detectable mark is trapezoidal in shape.
12. A method for determining the type of an optical storage medium, comprising:  
2 reading, from the optical storage medium using an optical system, at  
least one optically detectable mark that is readable by a plurality of different  
4 optical systems configured for different types of optical storage media; and  
interpreting the at least one optically detectable mark to identify the  
6 type of the optical storage medium.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the optical storage medium comprises a circular  
2 disc and the at least one optically detectable mark comprises a band of optically

detectable marks disposed around a circle concentric with the circumference of  
4 the optical storage medium.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the optically detectable marks comprising the  
2 band are uniformly spaced.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the optically detectable marks comprising the  
2 band are spaced sufficiently far apart to be detectable by an optical system  
achieving a predetermined largest expected focus spot.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein interpreting the at least one optically detectable  
2 mark to identify the type of the optical storage medium comprises measuring the  
spacing of the optically detectable marks comprising the band.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein interpreting the at least one optically detectable  
2 mark to identify the type of the optical storage medium comprises measuring at  
least one dimension of the at least one optically detectable mark.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the type comprises at least one of CD, DVD,  
2 Blu-ray, and AOD.

19. A method for rendering detectable by an optical system the type of an optical  
2 storage medium, comprising:  
selecting at least one optically detectable mark as corresponding to the  
4 type of the optical storage medium, the at least one optically detectable mark

being readable by a plurality of different optical systems configured for  
6 different types of optical storage media; and  
including, on the optical storage medium, the at least one optically  
8 detectable mark.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein including, on the optical storage medium, the at  
2 least one optically detectable mark comprises embossing the at least one optically  
detectable mark on a buried layer of the optical storage medium.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein including, on the optical storage medium, the at  
2 least one optically detectable mark comprises screen printing the at least one  
optically detectable mark on at least one of an outer surface and a buried layer of  
4 the optical storage medium.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein including, on the optical storage medium, the at  
2 least one optically detectable mark comprises ink-jet printing the at least one  
optically detectable mark on at least one of an outer surface and a buried layer of  
4 the optical storage medium.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein including, on the optical storage medium, the at  
2 least one optically detectable mark comprises ablating a metallic layer of the  
optical storage medium.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein including, on the optical storage medium, the at  
2 least one optically detectable mark comprises representing the at least one  
optically detectable mark using pulse-width modulation.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein including, on the optical storage medium, the at  
2 least one optically detectable mark comprises representing the at least one  
optically detectable mark using pulse-position modulation.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein the type comprises at least one of CD, DVD,  
2 Blu-ray, and AOD.

27. An optical device, comprising:  
2 an optical system to read, from an optical storage medium, at least one  
optically detectable mark that is readable by a plurality of different optical  
4 systems configured for different types of optical storage media; and  
logic configured to interpret the at least one optically detectable mark.

28. The optical device of claim 27, wherein the optical device comprises at least one  
2 of a DVD device, a CD device, a Blu-ray device, an AOD device, and a computer  
optical drive.

29. An optical device, comprising:  
2 means for reading, from an optical storage medium, at least one  
optically detectable mark that is readable by a plurality of different optical  
4 systems configured for different types of optical storage media; and

means for interpreting the at least one optically detectable mark.